

The
Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.
NOBISCUM
CHRISTUS STATE.

School Record

December, 1935.

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 52

DECEMBER, 1935

EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—

D. HUNT, F. M. JOHNSON, BIDDLE i, PARSONS.

School Register.

Valete

*Bryan, A. (vi.), 1928-35.	Scattergood, K. J. (Low. v.), 1930-35.
*Harris, L. A. (vi.), 1928-35.	Bulmer, E. E. (Upp. iv.), 1931-35
*Jackson, F. J. H. (vi.), 1925-35.	Court, C. (Upp. iv.), 1933-35.
*Sherwood, W. E. (vi.), 1927-35.	Hanson, H. M. (Upp. iv.), 1931-35.
*Spencer, R. E. W. (vi.), 1925-35.	Morton, M. H. (Upp. iv.), 1927-35.
*Warner, P. W. (vi.), 1928-35.	Smith, K. J. (Upp. iv.), 1931-35.
Savage, A. M. (Upp. v.), 1930-35.	Ligat, H. L. P. (iii), 1934-35.
Sisam, P. M. (Upp. v.), 1926-35.	Hobson, E. G. F. (Rem.), 1932-35.
Spiers, E. J. (Upp. v.), 1930-35.	Coleman, J. D. (ii.), 1932-35.

*Prefect.

Salvete

Archer, D. M. (Low. iv.).	Moore, A. D. (Low. iv.)
Austin, W. M. (iii.)	Portman, E. H. (iii.)
Barnes, J. F. (Low. iv.)	Rimmer, D. W. (iii.)
Barnes, H. M. (i.)	Robinson, I. C. (Low. iv.)
Biddle, S. G. (Low. iv.)	Sanders, C. S. (iii.)
Bryan, B. (iii.)	Savage, D. A. (iii.)
Collett, G. R. T. (iii.)	Smith, P. J. (iii.)
Cowper, J. W. (iii.)	Stanley, C. A. (iii.)
Cresswell, P. M. (iii.)	Taylor, E. J. (Low. iv.)
Devey, W. S. (iii.)	Taylor, J. (iii.)
Edwards, P. H. (iii.)	Webb, R. G. (iii.)
Hansell, V. J. (iii.)	Wells, M. D. (iii.)
Higley, J. A. (iii.)	Whitehouse, D. N. (Low. v.)
Hill, J. M. (iii.)	Wilson, G. M. (iii.)
Hillman, G. J. (i.)	Woods, K. A. (Upp. iv.)
Johnson, A. E. (Low. iv.)	Woodward, M. J. (Upp. iv.)
Keyte, E. P. (Low. iv.)	

This term the number of scholars in attendance has been over 200.

Old Scholars' Guild News.

PRESIDENT—Mr. C. T. L. Caton.

SECRETARY—S. C. Styler. TREASURER—C. H. Baylis.

COMMITTEE—

M. Baylis, M. Clark, R. Smith, C. Corbett, W. H. Foster,
F. Rook.

Fine weather favoured the Summer Reunion, which was held at School on Saturday, July 27th. Although the attendance of Old Scholars was perhaps somewhat smaller than usual, an enjoyable time was spent by all those who were present. For the afternoon, an American Tennis tournament had been arranged, and thirteen couples participated in some very good tennis. The finalists were B. Oliver and B. Hodgkinson, and M. Baylis and F. Rook, the former pair proving the ultimate victors. For those who wished to play, cricket, croquet and clock golf had also been arranged. The evening part of the reunion was devoted to dancing.

At the supper interval, the business meeting was held. The chief item was the election of officers for the year 1935-36. Mr. Caton was elected to the presidency, and C. Baylis to the office of treasurer; S. Styler was re-elected secretary. To the committee were elected R. Smith, W. H. Foster and F. Rook. As Sports Captains the meeting appointed E. Holder and B. Savage.

Last winter, an effort was made to revive the Old Scholars' Football Club, which had been defunct for a number of years. Considerable interest had been shown and support offered to the project, and the Guild was asked to accord official recognition to the Football Club. When the matter was brought forward, the acting committee was unanimously confirmed in office, and good wishes for the success of the Club were expressed. A report of the achievements of the club will be found in this magazine among the other sports news.

Towards the end of the summer, and too late for inclusion in last term's RECORD, the annual tennis match between Old Scholars and School took place. The Old Scholars were represented by the following pairs:—R. Bunting and C. Baylis; E. Holder and D. Baylis; K. Staff and K. Bailey; G. Averill and S. Smith. The result was a victory for the Old Scholars by 63 games to 61.

The Winter Reunion is arranged to take place at School, on Saturday, December 21st, commencing at 7-30 p.m. There will, as usual, be dancing in the hall, but those who do not wish to dance will have the opportunity of playing cards or table tennis, for which rooms will be set apart. A cordial invitation to attend is extended to all Old Scholars.

It is proposed to hold a Christmas dance in the Town Hall, on Friday, December 27th, from 8-30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets (2s. 6d. each) may be obtained from members of the committee. Old Scholars and their friends are invited to come along, in order to make the night a huge success.

Congratulations to F. Harper, who has passed the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board, and has been elected an associate. (A.R.S.I.);

To D. Gwynne Jones on obtaining a second class in his honours finals in history at Oxford ;

And to P. Carratt, who has passed the final Diploma examination for teachers of Domestic Subjects at Bath Domestic Science College.

In a hockey match played with the School on Friday, November 29th, the Old Scholars were represented by E. Holder (capt.), R. Bunting, G. Ainge, M. Clark, B. Clark, M. Bomford, K. Staff, L. Heath, M. Davis, C. Winnett, M. Sisam. The Old Scholars won by seven goals to one.

Births.

On July 18th, to Mr. and Mrs. P. Burden—a son.

On July 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Finnemore (née V. Bunting)—a son.

On September 7th, to Mr. and Mrs. Feast (née M. Whitehouse)—a son.

On September 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown (née C. Dowdeswell)—a daughter.

On November 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. A. Ferguson (née M. Thomas)—twin son and daughter.

through the pouring rain to draughty classrooms. No, all this will be wiped away, all will be changed for the better.

There are whispers that Science is to be recognised at last ; we hear that two new laboratories will be built. What scope this provides ! What visions it inspires. We shall see a cosy lab. stocked with brand-new apparatus all ready to be broken ; mirror-surfaced desks itching to be scratched ; polished floors with unlimited possibilities for slides ; new jars of potassium chlorate tempting the mice on bonfire-night. All these we shall have—what a dream !

At last will the importance of arts be acknowledged. Certain individuals have pressed for years for a lift in this direction, but this lift has been, like the mythical tree of golden apples, always a little too far away. The lift has been promised but not from official quarters ; the History-room in a boisterous north wind is not a haven of rest ; some say that periods of calm rarely centre round this spot. But no wasps will challenge this new abode of learning, they will find plaster tougher than wood. Indeed, we all agree, I am sure, that those past personalities, which have so kindly provided work for us, should have a respectable covering for their hoary heads.

Again, pupils who study the earth and its functions will soon be able to study them in not such close quarters as previously. They will live in a temperate climate and not in the tropics—not that we can blame the stove. Then will the compass, which now directs our gaze to north-north-east, direct it true North,—after all wood does warp.

We now come to a more enlivening part of the tale ; eaters will be given fuller accommodation. I hope the school-dinner eaters will not take this too literally. What I do mean is that the school authorities have finally recognised that, although fifty moderately sized children can be seated in a dining room, fifty children, *post cenam*, are rather packed. Then again, ample play will be given to elbows and knees, not to mention feet, although shins will be further apart ; moderate space will be given for unpleasant sounds from the upper end of the table to disappear. We have to consider this innovation as a very practical one, one consistent with the higher morals, one consistent with the largest appetite.

In conclusion, I would like to warn scholars that when this useful erection is being made, such articles as ladders and falling bricks are unlucky—or need I ? That is all.

L.P.

Oppression.

(With apologies to Longfellow).

Full of anger was the master,
 When he strode into the classroom,
 Found his pupils in an uproar,
 In confusion, in disorder.
 " You shall listen to our story,
 To our wrongs and to our sorrows,"
 Through their teeth they buzzed and muttered.
 " Do not ask us whence these stories
 Whence these groans and imprecations,
 From the cold and damp of cloakrooms
 Where we're forced to do our homework,
 While the girls contrive in comfort,
 In the warm and furnished classrooms
 To complete their preparation.
 From the silence of detention.
 From that silence strange and eerie,
 We demand to have exemption ;
 From that over bearing system,
 Which makes the Wobetou rulers,
 Keepers of our game and leisure.
 We demand that they be banished,
 And their methods too abolished."
 Thus inspired by their leader,
 Thus aroused to fire and anger,
 They pursued the hapless master,
 Who had found a refuge from them,
 That their wrath should not o'ertake him.
 He perceived the Wobetou,
 Sought their aid and their assistance,
 Which they gave him ; what a tribute
 To their loyalty, unswerving,
 To their characters so noble,
 To their courage, yet undaunted.
 Soon they quelled the howling rebels,
 Drove them back into their classrooms,
 Reinstated quiet and order.
 Resorted to their ancient armour,
 Put the whole lot in detention,
 And with vigilance redoubled,
 Thoughts of liberty dispersed.

PHYLLIS HOUGHTON.

Notes and News.

The head boy this year is Bayne, and the head girl is M. Rowles.

The prefects are M. Rowles, K. Collins, M. Jones ; Bayne, Hewlett i, Luker, Parsons, Richards. The junior prefects are D. Hunt, F. Johnson, F. Sore ; Baylis i, Hands, Holman.

Luker is this season's Football captain, and M. Clemson is the Hockey captain.

Sides captains are as follows :—*Brownies*, Richards and F. Sore ; *Jackals*, Hewlett i and M. Clemson ; *Tomlits*, Luker and M. Rowles.

At the closing assembly last term, Mr. Caton made a number of presentations.

The cricket bat (the gift of Mr. S. Stone) for the most improved senior member of the School eleven was presented to Hewlett ii ; while that (given by Mr. A. Baylis) for the most improved junior member of the eleven went to Down.

The tennis racquet (the gift of Mrs. Caton) was presented to Flora Johnson.

Sherwood received his cricket cap.

The Tennis Gold Medal was presented to K. Collins, and the Silver Medal to M. Rowles.

Tennis colours were handed to K. Collins, M. Rowles and F. Sore.

A replica of the Victor Ludorum Cup (in lieu of a Gold Medal) was presented to Luker.

Mr. Caton gave his personal gifts of books to Sherwood and J. Jackson, in appreciation of their work as head boy and head girl.

Mr. Cook was presented, on behalf of the Staff and School, with a Grandmother clock, on the occasion of his marriage.

Sherwood was successful in obtaining a County School Leaving Scholarship at the end of last term.

All cordially welcome Miss Rosse, who joined the Staff at the beginning of term.

Half term was November 4th and 5th. An extra holiday was given to celebrate Sherwood's success.

Wednesday, November 6th, was a holiday, this being the wedding day of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

A tennis party for the Sixth and Upper Fifth forms was held on Monday, July 29th.

From our Sports Day reports last term, we inadvertently omitted the award of the Arts and Crafts trophy to E. Lewis.

On Friday, October 4th, a lecture on "The Mercantile Marine and Missions to Seamen," was given by the Rev. Lambert Williams.

On Friday, October 25th, Captain Cannon gave a lecture on the work of the R.S.P.C.A.

A lantern lecture was given on Friday, November 15th, by Mr. Guy Fothergill, the subject being "Egypt, Syria and the Holy Land."

We wish to acknowledge the gift of Rudyard Kipling's "The Just So Stories," presented to Form i, by Miss Smith on leaving.

Oxford Letter.

It is very suspicious that Samuel Pepys, who gave so lively an Oxford Report last year is very reluctant now to reveal the contents of his mysterious diary. Whatever the cause of that may be, it has fallen out, that upon myself, who think it safer to keep no diary, has devolved the duty of compiling that record of scandal and distinction, the A.G.S. Oxford Letter.

The "senior member" from St. Hilda's, who honours us as well as herself in being a member of the committee of the Labour Club, is now become ever busier as the shadow of Finals engulfs her from our view. Such was her zeal before the General Election that even the expectation of seeing her three distinguished "fellows" could not lure her to the excellent tea which was provided by our Vice-president from Keble. This most estimable character is also working hard and plays football for Keble First XI. (Here is your chance, he told me, of getting one in against me and talking of the atrocious state of Keble football. But since I am a gentleman, you see I have not taken it). Nevertheless '*nihil scribo nisi verum*' (if the Latin passes the Editor it is more than ever I managed at A.G.S.) and I must add that on the night of November 8th, which is a time for celebration at Oxford,

as your present Head Girl may tell you if you ask her, I espied a youth, known to both of us who met my courteous greeting with an enquiry concerning the availability of the alcoholic contents of my cupboard. But when he learned that I had drained my last glass of lemonade before venturing forth—

“like light dew exhaled he flung from me.”

The third member of our society is our hon. secretary from “Balliol—I mean, St. Hughes.”—Note I am sorry about the above mistake. It was impossible for the printer to ascribe her to two colleges, and while you can draw your own conclusions he had to draw the line somewhere. But I ascertain that she also is working hard and spends a great deal of her time philosophising, which seems to be rather an engaging pursuit.

The remaining member of the society is your humble scribe, the office boy from Pembroke, who fills his days with many harmless and innocent pursuits. Among other things he rows on the river and rows in one or two study groups. He ran the mile without disgrace in the Inter-College relay races last month and is by now an inveterate consumer of lemonade. On the occasion of smoking his first pipe, for half an hour before dinner, he beat it from hall by thirty seconds (you need not trouble to ask me what he beat). He has had an argument with the vice-president who has nosed out that he is writing poetry. Says the “vice” (no harm meant) “Put that in the Report, the news of course, not your slush.” “Never,” says the office boy. “Then I will,” says the vice darkly, “and I’ll tell them what it is about.”

At this coup *Je grace*, the office boy wilts, but carelessly and with his accustomed *sang-froid*, allows that he will reconsider his decision.

At the moment of going to press, the society is to hold a meeting to discuss the honour extended to them of an invitation from the debating society which first gave nurture to their childish attempts at oratory. The office boy is to give the tea and is now on the scrounge, pinching rolls of bread from hall dinner in order to make a balanced meal out of two lumps of toffee and a piece of Dutch cheese, which he guarantees to be good stuff, for he has already caught two mice with it.

W.E.S.

Ghosts.

Ghosts are very elusive things and so it is difficult to find many sound, material facts about them. The dictionary defines a ghost as, "The soul of a man ; a disembodied spirit ; apparition ; shadow." I think that the popular acceptance of a ghost is something shaped like a human being but not material.

The usual time for ghosts to appear is somewhere round about midnight. Young boys' parents have usually gone to bed by then, the still, mysterious darkness lends itself to the startling effect produced by a ghost more than bright daylight and at that time people's senses are not so alert, so that it is best to go ghost-hunting in the middle of the night.

Ghosts appear in all sorts of different places. Perhaps the most common is the churchyard ; it must be very startling to see a white figure flitting about among the graves, but if it is hit by a stone or a stick, more often than not, the missile does not go through the figure and it emits very human cries. Another favourite haunt of ghosts is the corridors of very old buildings. But they usually appear at Christmas at house-parties, where there are a few bright young things home on holiday from college. Yet another one is the bedrooms of murderers ; the murderer will probably say that the murdered person visits him when he is in bed, but it is wonderful what the possessor of a guilty conscience can imagine.

Now we must see why ghosts appear. Murderers imagine that the ghost of the murdered person appears to revenge itself. It very often succeeds by causing the assassin's nerve to break down and he either confesses to the wrong or commits suicide. The schoolboy often wants to get revenge on the village policeman and it must be a great delight to "the young imp," who is so accustomed to run away from the law, to see the boot on the other leg. Or it may be just the love of playing practical jokes which causes him to forsake the warmth of bed to don a sheet and other ghostly paraphernalia.

Ghosts appear attired in different sorts of clothing. The most common form is the one who haunts the churchyards attired in long, white, flowing robes with clanking chains trailing after it, tins on the end of a piece of string, and with a ghastly white, luminous face with green eyes, produced by luminous paint. Another form of this kind of ghost is a gas-filled balloon covered with a sheet ; it floats about very realistically. Those ghosts which are supposed to haunt people,

are usually dressed in the clothes in which they died, and if they have had their heads cut off, they probably have them tucked under their arms, like, so we are told, the wives of Henry VIII.

By now, I expect that you have guessed that I do not believe in ghosts, but I am quite ready to change my views if someone can prove to me that there are such beings. I think that a ghost is usually one of the things I have mentioned or just an hallucination and I have never heard any person who is perfectly sane and whose nerves are not strained by some trouble, say that he has seen a ghost.

M.C.

Autumn.

Down the country lanes to-day
In the breeze the branches sway,
Leaves of brown, red and gold
Shiver in the Autumn cold.

Soon the wind will be more shrill,
Whistling gaily down the hill,
Down the leaves will come in showers,
Whirling round for hours and hours.

So the touch of Autumn's hand
Sweeps across the dreary land,
All the trees will soon be deep
In their silent winter sleep.

J. COLLETT (Lower Fourth).

Such is Life!

Once more, dear readers, we are faced with the terrifying ordeal of writing an article for the A.G.S. Record. Should we survive, your magazine may be polluted yet again.

Well, firstly, it is a question of Hats. We are led to believe that much confusion has been caused by two females, who will persist in wearing their school hats at rakish angles (the impudent hussies!), but, (alas) it appears that the angles . . . No; we can't do it. All our knowledge of geometry has completely disappeared, but no doubt any of our able mathematicians (you can choose between a crooner, a designer of bathing costumes and two experts, one on the subject of bees, and the other on the subject of (h)asparagus) will be only too pleased to give you any further information you may require.

The females of the school have again been allowed a privilege. They now do their daily dozen, physical jerks, slimming exercises, or what you will in complete freedom (what a blo—!

oh, we beg you pardon—rumour). These Modern Venuses (or is it Venusae?) may now be seen (wait for it—wait for it) in gym knickers (what a relief !)

Dear readers, we are afraid that nothing very exciting has happened this term. The Sixth Form are, of course, very annoyed that they should have been forced to take up new quarters—one member particularly is getting quite slim (she can do with it !) through running up and down stairs. (Please note—an escalator is badly needed).

We have yet further suggestions for improvement. The installation of a cocktail bar is a necessity in these modern times. May we suggest too, that "Woman and Beauty," "Britannia and Eve," and "Razzle," should take the place of the "Listener," "Manchester Guardian," and "Public Opinion?" We consider that a ballroom, together with Harry Roy's Dance Band, and a dance twice a week would do much to revive our drooping spirits (very badly needed). Do you not agree that Charlie Kunz would greatly lessen the monotony of taking detention? And just think—there would be complete silence ! One word, also, to our budding musicians—as the Music Room is situated so very near to our form room, would it be too much to ask you to refrain from playing scales so continually? It is apt to get on one's nerves, especially towards examination time. Now, a little hot rhythm . . . !

A word of warning to the inexperienced. We have noticed with consternation that a certain scientific individual is continually risking his life by "rattling" to school in an unwholesome way. It is with relief that we observe the presence of the Alsatian—presumably waiting for an opportunity to show his strength should the engine fail. And of course, there is usually that "tough guy" waiting to lift "pram" and occupant out should it at any time stick in the mud. But again, we repeat, beware ! We value the life of our budding genius to such an extent that we greatly fear any accident which might prove fatal. Also, it would be just too tragic if the engine refused to get its owner to school in time for the exams.

Before we close, we think that a word of praise to our Sixth-form crooner would not be misplaced. With just a little more practice he may yet out-Crosby Crosby himself. But we should like to add that, while we consider him as less than an eighth wonder, it would be very much appreciated by those other damsels of us for whom his serenading is not

intended, if he would only practise elsewhere during the absence of the real recipient of his painful toils.

Goodbye, dear readers, and a merry Christmas ! Even yet we are hopeful of meeting you in that cocktail bar !

K.M.C.

M.J.R.

Olla Podrida.

Our junior biologist informs us that " the amoeba does not breathe through its nose, like human beings, because it hasn't got one."

According to E.N.L. " birds chirp in the populars " and " there are some foul in the field."

Ille ruit prostratus humi cum fortibus armis, says M. R., means " He, lying on the ground, rushes forward with strong arms."

N.C. writes of the " Holly Alliance "—undoubtedly a prickly subject.

F. J. translates *Les Bretons sont les fils du péché*, as " The Bretons are the sons of fish." She has evidently discovered a new version of Darwin's theory.

Fishes, in fact, seem to be popular, for R. G. T. S. assures us that " the soldiers court many fish in the river."

A budding scientist makes the startling announcement that " Moses grew on a damp wall." We always thought it was in the bulrushes !

I hadde levere than my sherte, according to M. W., means " I would rather have a livery than a shirt." Chaucer certainly is humorous !

Will M. C. kindly enlighten us as to what exactly is the kangaroo's " tale ? "

A Delicate but Dangerous Art.

I'm not quite sure how it began. To go roller skating in the dark on a November evening is very strange. But boys do have strange ideas. Anyhow, Tom and Dick came home at five o'clock, each carrying a pair of roller skates. After tea they strapped them on and started demonstrating their skill

by gliding across the kitchen. Suddenly Tom said to me, "You can't do this." So, determined not to be beaten by a mere boy, and my own brother at that, I fetched an old pair of skates from the attic and valiantly began to put them on.

When I had broken two straps and mended them with string, I thought my troubles were over. But alas, I was soon to be disillusioned. The boys were already racing up and down the garden path to the light of electric torches. I determined to practise indoors first, and after about fifteen minutes hard work I could go—I do not say skate—across the kitchen without holding on to the table. Very elated by this wonderful feat, I went out into the yard. But pride goes before a fall, and I had forgotten the cellar grating. This is situated close to the wall, and, fortunately for me, there is a water pipe close to it. Had there been nothing to hold on to I should probably have been feeling very sorry for myself before long. As it was I managed to grasp the pipe and haul myself into a less precarious position.

Then the fun started. Taking two short steps forward, I collided with Dick, who was now so proficient that he had abandoned his torch. We both regretted it, for we collapsed on to the aforementioned grating. But before I had time even to call out, Dick had gone and I was left to myself to struggle to my feet. When I had at last recovered and had encountered a stray football, which caused another fall, I decided to abandon the attempt, in spite of the scorn of the brave boys. But I had the last laugh, for as I was taking off my skates, I heard a crash as they collided and fell through the cucumber frame! No damage, except the breaking of glass, was fortunately done. Such are the misfortunes of novices. Therefore, let me give a word of advice to prospective champions—learn to skate in daylight, and be sure that there is something near by to hold on to.

H. D. H.

Oxford Examinations, 1955.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

MODERN STUDIES—

*F. J. H. Jackson.

*Awarded Cobden Prize for Economics.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

HONOURS—

*L. Parsons (8 credits, with distinctions in English and History);

*E. J. Spiers (6 credits);

*H. D. Hunt (7 credits, with distinction in English).

PASS—

F. Hands (3 credits) ; D. O. Hewlett (6 credits) ;
C. Luker (1 credit) ; W. G. Ripington (6 credits) ;
F. M. Johnson (2 credits) ; A. M. Savage (2 credits) ;
P. M. Sisam (3 credits).

*Qualification to claim exemption from London Matriculation examination.

Oxford and Cambridge Examinations, 1955.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

MATHEMATICS—

L. A. Harris.

The Musical Society.

PRESIDENT—Mr. Caton.

SECRETARY—Parsons.

CHAIRMAN—Miss Deans.

No meeting of this Society has as yet been held. Plans however, are afoot to provide many interesting meetings for both this term and the next.

Mr. Bates is to give a recital of gramophone records of Gilbert and Sullivan's light operas, on Thursday, November 28th. Such a programme has been long desired and it provides an interesting divergence from former routine.

Miss Deans is to approach Miss Fletcher to give us in the near future, another programme of Irish folk-songs. She has given the Musical Society such a recital once previously and it was very successful.

At Christmas, the usual carol concert is to be held, but at present, talent in the school is not sufficiently advanced to allow the reservation of a whole meeting to it ; it will, however, be interspersed in a miscellaneous programme one evening next term.

L. P.

Debating Society.

COMMITTEE—

Miss Evans (Chairman), Bayne, D. Hunt, Parsons,
Biddle, F. Sore, Butt.

In spite of several suggestions that the Society should be allowed to lapse for a short time, a meeting was held on Thursday, November 14th. The subject for discussion was : " That the Modern Generation would prefer to have lived either in the past or the future than in the present," and the keenness with which it was contested fully justified the con-

tinuation of the Society. The motion, which was proposed by M. Jones and M. Rowles and opposed by Bayne and Parsons, was decisively defeated by 39 votes to 15.

It is hoped that after examinations, another meeting will be held to which old members of the Society will be invited.

P. J. B.

Scouts.

Practically all the scout meetings this term have been spent indoors owing to bad weather conditions. Two fine days which we have had, were utilized to the fullest extent. Inter-patrol football matches were held, and, weather permitting, we hope to partake of a similar afternoon's sport sometime in the near future. An attack and defence competition was held between the patrols, only the state of the ground marring an afternoon's enjoyment.

Meetings indoors were spent in very high spirits. Small sketches were acted by the various patrols, "Mock Trials" being by far the most successful. Signalling tests were also held indoors this term, and many scouts succeeded in obtaining the second class badge.

As in previous years, the elder members of the Scout Troop will go round the neighbouring district carol singing on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of December. On the 23rd, we visit Great Alne and Haselor, the 24th Alcester, and on Christmas night we shall visit Bidford and district. We sincerely hope that the weather conditions, which have prevailed throughout the term, will not last over Christmas.

The number of the Scout Troop has once more risen, this time by ten members. The number at the end of last term was forty four, while of the present moment it stands at fifty four. We should like to remark that all newcomers are quite welcome, as there is still room for many additions.

Points up to date :—Peacocks 353 ; Owls 352 ; Eagles 346 ; Kangaroos 309 ; Woodpigeons 306 ; Cobras 236.

L. G. B. (P. L. Owls).

Football.

CAPTAIN—Luker.

SECRETARY—Bayne.

After a disappointing opening, the Football season has developed a more encouraging aspect. This can largely be ascribed to a general alteration in tactics and especially to the adoption of the "Third Back Game." Recent success can also be attributed to Luker, who, at centre-half, has combined vigorous defence with constructive ability and to

Grubb, who has on all occasions proved his value as leader of the forwards. Although the defence has retained many of its stalwarts of last year and has now attained quite a high standard of efficiency, the forward line has been sadly depleted and the comparatively small size of its newcomers has been a distinct handicap. Altogether, this term has been mainly experimental as far as the attack is concerned, but it is hoped that a more settled forward formation will lead to further success after Christmas.

Results to date :

- A.G.S. v. Redditch C.H.S. (home), drawn 3—3.
- v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home), lost 1—6.
- v. King's Norton S.S. (home), lost 0—6.
- v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), drawn 2—2.
- v. The Old Scholars (home), won 4—3.
- v. Redditch C.H.S. (away), won 5—1.

Sides Matches :—

Tomtits 3, Jackals 1; Brownies 3, Jackals 2; Tomtits 3, Brownies 2.

P. J. B.

Old Scholars' Football Club.

PRESIDENT—Mr. E. Wells.

HON. SECRETARY—F. Duxbury.

Ground : Crooks Lane, Alcester.

The Old Scholars' Football Club, which has been restarted this season after a lapse of many years, has made a very successful beginning. Seven of the nine matches played have been won, and two lost, one of these being against the school, when a weakened team had a very rude awakening.

The club now has a membership of thirty five, and, though it will be impossible for all to play, it is hoped to give as many as possible a game. At the same time, whilst there has been keenness amongst Old Scholars to play, and much competition for places, the committee have been somewhat disappointed at the attendances at matches. Those with free Saturday afternoons, club members especially, we would urge to rally round and give the football club their moral support.

A concert and a whist drive have been held in aid of the funds, and both of these were very successful. Another whist drive is to be held in the Town Hall, Alcester, on February 27th, 1936, and it is hoped that as many Old Scholars as possible will make an effort to be present on this occasion.

A day trip to Oxford, on February 1st, including a match with Keble College, has been arranged for club members. Particulars of this outing may be obtained from the secretary; accommodation is limited, and applications for seats will be treated strictly in rotation.

Results to date :—

A.G.S.O.S. F.C. v. Bournville Athletic Club IV (away), won
5—3.

v. Old Nortonians II (away), lost 3—7.

v. C. of B. Public Works Dept. (home), won
5—0.

v. Austin Apprentices II (home), won 9—I.

v. Farmer's Ins. Soc. Sports Club II (away)
won 3—I.

v. Shrimpton and Fletchers (home), won 7—I.

v. Moor Green "A" (away), won 5—0.

v. Birmingham University III (away), won
6—2.

v. Alcester Grammar School (School), lost
3—4.

Hockey.

CAPTAIN—M. Clemson.

Of the five matches played this term, three have been won, two lost. Owing to the bad weather, two matches—the second XI match against Evesham P.H.G.S. and the first XI against Bromsgrove C.H.S.—unfortunately, had to be scratched.

Two sides matches only have been played so far this term. In these the Jackals were successful both times, beating the Tomtits 10—0 and the Brownies 2—0.

The results so far have been as follows :—

- A.G.S. v. Redditch C.H.S. (away), lost 1—3.
 v. Studley Ladies (home), won 3—2.
 v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), lost 0—10.
 v. Shipston-on-Stour (home), won 1—0.
 v. Evesham Ladies (home), won 3—2.

Cricket.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
10	4	4	2

The following boys played for the School :—Warner, Hewlett i, Richards, Keniston, Hewlett ii, Grubb, Baylis i, Down, Bayne, Sherwood, Hunt i, Butt and Smith i.

Verses on Bonfire Night.

The stars so bright
 Light up to night
 With fountains gay,
 A grand array.

I love to see
 In every tree
 The starlight, bright
 In the dreary night.

The wind doth sigh
 Through the leaves so dry,
 And rockets fly
 From them to the sky.

The end, I fear
 Is very near,
 The last we hear
 Is the children's cheer.

PAT HANSON (Remove).

For the Juniors.

The Magician.

(suggested by a poem).

In a dark forest, near a pool of deep blue water, lived a mighty Magician. He wore a long, dark red robe, painted all over with twinkling stars, silvery crescent moons and glowing

suns. Around him, flowed quicksilver water ; and tiny brown field-mice and little pink-eyed white ones ran about.

He could change people into birds—parrots, all the colours of the rainbow, or pale yellow canaries. They could be trout, or gold-fish or huge whales, terrible sharks or swift, deadly sword fish. At a wave of his wand, he would change you to a lovely graceful Polar bear, a lion with a tawny mane, a little squeaky mouse with a long tail, a poisonous snake, or even a piglet.

A boy and a girl come to him from Littletown. They stand under a tree, waiting for the Magician to see them. We wonder what they want to be.

Form I (in collaboration).

Bonfire Night.

We are going to have a huge bonfire and lots of fireworks on November 5th.

We have been collecting sticks for our bonfire for a week, and it is about four feet high already, and we are going to burn Guy Fawkes on it. We shall have to spread the wood out in a half-moon to dry, if it rains a lot. We have been clearing the shrubbery out, and have got a lot of wood from that. Some of us are going to get wood from Daddy's works, and others are going to chop up boxes. Everything will go on, briars from the hedges, rubber tyres and old torch batteries.

We have all been saving up money to buy fireworks. We want to have a big show. We'll have Catherine wheels, rockets, Jack-in-the-box, cannon-crackers, a boomerang, flash-bombs, squibs, mountain-glides, sparklers, fountains, volcanoes, snakes and Belisha Beacons.

The squibs jump along the ground, going Pop-pop-pop-pop-pop-pop-pop-pop !

Rockets have to be carefully lighted ; they bang in the air and hundreds of coloured stars come out.

You stick Catherine wheels on the end of poles and they spin round—fizzy-whizzy-whizz. When you light a snake, it goes into stars in the air. We have to wait for Daddy to light the big ones, but we enjoy the sparklers and whirl them round in our hands.

Form I.

ALCESTER:
THE CHRONICLE OFFICE,
HIGH STREET.
